

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, 17-20, and 22 are now pending in the application. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the drawings and specification. As such, no new matter is added. The amendments to the claims merely clarify subject matter that was already implicit in the claims as recited. As such, no new issues are raised. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woods et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,058,834) in view of Stapleton et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,577). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Woods, either singly or in combination with Stapleton, fails to at least show, teach, or suggest providing a **power feedback signal** from an internal portion of the IC to the power supply regulator.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, the alleged combination fails to disclose the limitation of providing a power feedback signal from an internal portion of the IC to the power supply regulator.

As shown in an exemplary embodiment in FIG. 2 of the present application, power (e.g. a voltage potential) is provided to pin 130 of an integrated circuit (IC). A power feedback signal (e.g. REGULATOR FEEDBACK) indicative of the power is provided from an internal portion of the IC. Applicant respectfully notes that “feedback” can be defined as “the return to the input of a part of the output of a machine, system, or process (as for producing changes in an electronic circuit that improve performance or in an automatic control device that provide self-corrective action.” In other words, here, the power feedback signal is indicative and/or a return of **power that is input to the IC**.

The Examiner acknowledges that Woods fails to disclose providing a power feedback signal from an internal portion of the IC and instead relies on Stapleton to disclose this limitation. Applicant respectfully submits that Stapleton still fails to make up for the deficiencies of Woods. For example, the Examiner relies on signal 17 as shown in FIG. 1 of Stapleton to disclose a power feedback signal. Applicant respectfully notes that the signal 17 is a voltage identification (ID) signal, not a power feedback signal.

For example:

...the processor 12 may be tested after its fabrication to determine an optimal supply voltage for the specific core circuitry 13 of the processor 12. This **optimal voltage level is encoded into the processor 12 in the form of the VID number** that is readable from specific VID external contacts (pins or balls) of the processor 12...Thus, **a voltage regulator 14 of the power subsystem 11 receives the indication (via voltage identification lines 17) of the VID from the processor 12.** (See Column 1, Lines 52-65; Emphasis added).

In other words, the voltage identification line 17 provides a fixed, predetermined voltage identification number (VID). The VID identifies an optimal voltage level for the circuitry 13. Applicant respectfully submits that a stored number is not analogous to a

an actual feedback signal, and more particularly, is not related to providing a **power feedback signal**.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Stapleton fails to disclose **providing a power feedback signal from the internal portion of the IC to the power supply regulator** as claim 1 recites. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons.

Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stapleton et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,577) in view of Heimbigner (U.S. Pat. No. 4,363,978). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 7, Stapleton fails to at least show, teach, or suggest **de-asserting a drive pin of a gate of a MOS power transistor to force the high impedance state**.

Initially, the Examiner alleged that Stapleton discloses this structure at Column 2, Lines 38-67, and Column 3, Lines 18-31. The first cited portion of Stapleton, in reference to FIG. 1, states that a PWR_GOOD signal is de-asserted “to indicate an invalid VTT voltage and cause the voltage regulator 14 to tri-state its output terminal.”

In response, Applicant noted that claim 7 recites, specifically, that a drive pin coupled to a power transistor is de-asserted, and the above cited portion does not disclose de-asserting a drive pin of any transistor whatsoever. The Examiner now appears to allege that because a drive pin somewhere in the circuit is de-asserted, that drive pin is “coupled” to a transistor 74 by virtue of the processor 12 and the transistor

74 existing in the same circuit. Applicant respectfully disagrees and maintains that such an interpretation is unreasonably broad.

Notwithstanding, Applicant amended claim 7 to clarify, without conceding the original subject matter, that **a drive pin of a gate of the MOS power transistor** is de-asserted to force the high impedance state. In other words, a pin of the gate of the MOS power transistor itself is de-asserted, not merely a pin that is, at best, tangentially coupled to the transistor.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

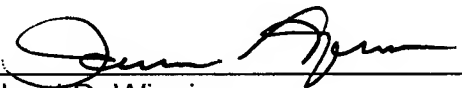
The Examiner states that claims 11-15, 17-20, and 22 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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